

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Muraji et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,867,582, hereinafter Muraji).

Claim 1 is directed toward an angular-position magnetic-sensor device including: least one stator and one rotor; a space between the stator and the rotor, defining over substantially 360°, as a main air gap including at least two movable magnetic poles of alternating polarities; and the stator including at least one secondary air gap in which there is placed at least one magnetosensitive element, wherein the stator includes two pole shoes having angular widths that are substantially equal to 120° and 240° respectively, and the two magnetic poles each have an angular width substantially equal to 120°.

In a non-limiting embodiment of the claimed invention, the air gap is active on substantially 360°. The enclosed figure shows the distribution of the magnetic field lines in a sensor according to a non-limiting embodiment of the claimed invention. As shown in this figure, the air gap is active on 360° and the magnetic flux circulates in all 360°.

Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding grounds of rejection. Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “a space between said stator and said rotor, defining over substantially 360°, as a main air gap including at least two movable magnetic poles of alternating polarities.”

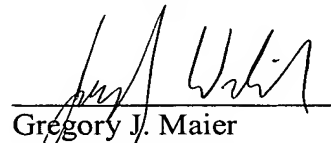
The outstanding Office Action takes the position that a space between stator (141) and rotor (146) of Muraji defines a substantially 360° air gap. As is clearly shown in Fig. 7C of Muraji, the air gap, which is the space between the rotor 91460 and the stator (141), is substantially 240°. This does not disclose or suggest the claimed substantially 360° air gap.

In view of the above-noted distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 (and Claims 2-19 dependent thereon) patentably distinguish over Muraji.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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